

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STUTTG 01019 301700Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----014231 301704Z /72

O P 301550Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4363
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STUTTGART 1019

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR MPOL SOPN GW CG US
SUBJECT: OTRAG TEST LAUNCH

REF: STATE 134208 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN CALL ON CONGEN OFFICER TODAY GOMPERTZ REVEALED THAT OTRAG EST LAUNCH TOOK PLACE MAY 20 AT 12:01 AM. LAUNCH WAS OF THE 12 METER ROCKET DISCUSSED STUTTGART 900, AND WAS CONSIDERED A COMPLETE SUCCESS. LAUNCH OF THE 16 METER ROCKET, ALSO DISCUSSED STUTTGART 900, IS SCHEDULED WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK, ACCORDING TO GOMPERTZ. A PRESS RELEASE DATED MAY 26 HAS BEEN ISSUED DISCUSSING THE MAY 20 LAUNCH, BUT THERE IS NO MENTION MADE OF THE PENDING LAUNCH. GOMPERTZ WAS INSISTENT THAT WE KEEP THIS SECOND LAUNCH DATE SECRET, AND WE REQUEST OUR SOURCE BE KEPT ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL. THE PRESS IS BEING KEPT AWAY FROM THE SECOND LAUNCH AS IT WAS FROM THE FIRST.

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PAGE 02 STUTTG 01019 301700Z

2. GOMPERTZ ALSO REPORTS THAT OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS FRG ENFORCEMENT OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS ON EQUIPMENT, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME ON KNOW-HOW AS WELL, HAVE INCREASED NOTICABLY. THIS HAS STARTED OTRAG PRINCIPALS THINKING ABOUT POSSIBLE MOVE OF ALL OTRAG EUROPEAN OPERATIONS FROM FRG TO FRANCE, WHERE OTRAG MAINTAINS A PAPER OFFICE. OTRAG FEELS FRENCH TAX, INVESTMENT AND EXPORT REGULATIONS MAY PROVIDE A MORE FERTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR

FUTURE OTRAG ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A STRONGER CULTURAL LINK WITH ZAIRE, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA PROVINCE. THE MAY 20 PRESS RELEASE DISCLOSING THE LAUNCH WAS ISSUED BY TELEX FROM THE PARIS OTRAG OFFICE (OTRAG FRANCE, NO ADDRESS AVAILABLE).

3. WE FINESSED GOMPERTZ'S REQUEST AT END OF HIS MEETING WITH CONGEN OFFICER FOR OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CONSUL GENERAL. IN VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION STATED PARA 2 REFTEL AND THE ABOVE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GOMPERTZ, WE THOUGHT THAT IN COURSE OF SUCH "COURTESY" CALL GOMPERTZ COULD WELL HAVE SOUGHT EMBARK ON SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION IN WHICH WE WOULD PREFER NOT ENGAGE AT THIS LEVEL IN ABSENCE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AND GUIDANCE. WE THEREUPON INFORMED GOMPERTZ CONSUL GENERAL WAS NOT FREE BUT WOULD BE PLEASED SEE HIM NEXT TIME HE STOPPED BY CONSULATE. GOMPERTZ SAID HE WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE PENDING ZAIRE LAUNCH. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES IN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS FOR A SIX WEEK VISIT, THUS EFFECTIVELY ELMINATING OUR WORKING CONTACT WITH OTRAG FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME. MILLER

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Message Attributes

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